Contd. II-57—100,000—31-8-53.

REVENUE (1948) Department

SERIES.

G.O. No. 624,

Dated 23rd March 1948

PROHIBITION - Amelioration Tappers and others in Arkari trade Alternative employment - Papers recorded.

Government House
Mount Road, Madras,
dated 20-10-47.

From
Sri K.A. Nachiappa Gounder, M.L.A.,
Chairman,
Prohibition Enquiry Committee,
Madras.

To
The Secretary,
Revenue Department,
Fort St. George,
Madras.

Sir,

Sub: Employment of ex-tappers and others in Abkari trade - finding other occupations - suggestions made.

After the introduction of Prohibition in the second batch of 8 districts in this Province from 1st October 1947, there has been a definite increase in the number of men and women like tappers, transporters of liquor and a chain of several other persons connected with the Abkari trade who were thrown out of employment. When prohibition was introduced at the outset in the first instalment of 8 districts from 1-0-1946, some of these persons in the Abkari profession migrated to the neighbouring wet districts to continue their avocation; and some of those who did not complete to stir out of their native homes diverted to pursuits like Agriculture, coolie work etc. A certain percentage of them were absorbed in ameliorative activities such as jaggery manufacture, kumbli weaving etc. on co-operative lines.

2.It is observed in the issue of the Indian Express dated 18-10-47 page eight that nearly 39,000 families of tappers are thrown out of employment in the two districts of Malabar and South Kanara which have recently gone dry. Sri S. Kumaran, M.L.A., from Cannanore who is one of the members of our Committee has brought home to us in our report committee meeting held on the 10th inst. that there are several thousands of tappers families in his districtof Malabar who entirely depended all these years in the profession of tapping and sale of toddy and that they are now faced seriously with the problem of unemployment. I deem that this matter calls for an urgent solution. Alternative occupation for this category of perons thrown out of employment have to be chalked out on a constructive basis by the Government and that too immediately if not already done.

3.I suggest that the Collectors of the concerned dry districts be instructed to lay their hands on this question with all promptness that they can command. They may be asked to take a census atonce of all the people employed in the Abkari trade previously, enquire of them as to the kind of industry or avocation, such as coir making, mat weaving, kumbli weaving, sheep farming, milk supply, diary farming and other allied cottage industries worked on the co-operative basis, which they would prefer to choose; and take steps to switch them on to new walks of life. Such industries may be started and worked in an economic way in all places where there are facilities for them. Even if the tappers, etc. are new to the work, some trained people in the line may be roped in to work with them and thus teach the art and put them in the way. Labour Co-operative Societies may be started to undertake road contract works, forest contract like the felling of firewood and charcoal manufacture. If convenient stretches of Government land are available, the Government could organise collective farming schemes on co-operative basis to make provision for the ex-tappers as well as other professional agriculturists. This would act indirectly as an apprenticing course for the ex-tappers to learn the new art and live by it.

4. The Abkari renters could also be shown avenues for pooling their finances in some industrial concerns and facilities may be afforded to them by Government for putting their energies and money in industrialising the country.

5. I would further suggest that information on similar lines may also be obtained in respect of the remaining nine districts - Chingleput, South Arcot, Tinnevelly, Ramnad, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Vizagapatam and Madras -; and arrangements be made from now onwards so as to readily absorb the ex-tappers, etc. who would be thrown out of employment from 1st October 1948. This procedure would obviate the necessity of meeting with the same serious problem that would arise at the future date on 1-10-48. It would also act as a solace to the affected classes and dispel the dismay in their minds.

Sd. x x x
Chairman,
20-10-47.

/TRUE COPY/

RS/

Board of Revenue (Excise) Department.

Sub: PROHIBITION - Amelioration - Tappers and others in Abkari trade alternative employment.

Read: Government Memorandum No.5225/47-2, dated 12-11-1947.

C.R.No. 8715/47-J1.

STATION: TRIPLICANE, MADRAS-5. Dated 11-2-1948.

From

Md. Munzoor Hussain Khan Sahib Bahadur, B.A.(Hons.)
Assistant Secretary, Board of Revenue (Excise)

V.N. Kudva, Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Member, Board of Revenue and Commissioner of Land Revenue, Excise and Prohibition.

REFERENCE: -

The Board herewith submits its remarks on the letter from Sri K.A. Nachiappa Gownder, M.L.A., Chairman of the Madras Prohibition Enquiry Committee, called for in the Government Memorandum quoted above.

2. The main points raised by Mr. Nachiappa Gownder are the following:-

(i) Provision of employment to tappers thrown out of work consequent on the introduction of prohibition particularly in Malabar and South Kanara Districts.

(ii) Provision of employment to people formerly engaged in Abkari trade (i.e.) renters, their employees and servants, etc., and

(iii) Taking of similar action even now in respect of the districts in which prohibition is likely to be introduced in October 1948.

As regards No.(i) above, Mr. Nachiappa Gownder has made suggestions for the formation of various types of societies particulary for cottage industries for the benefit of the tappers. As the Government are aware, the question of providing suitable alternative employment to the ex-tappers is already

engaging the attention of the Board and instructions have been issued to the Collectors of the districts concerned in this direction; In fact detailed instructions have been issued to the Collectors of new prohibition districts in Board's C.R.3032/47, H.2 dated 9-6-1947 (copy enclosed) informing them of the various measures taken for the employment of the tappers in the old prohibition districts and the various measures to be taken by them to solve the question of unemployment among the tappers in their respective districts. Palmyrah jaggery societies have already been formed in the districts of Salem, Coimbatore, North Arcot and Chittoor. Such societies have been and are being formed in the districts of Malabar, South Kanara, Guntur, Nellore, Madura, Trichinopoly and Tanjore also. Government have also permitted the formation of co-operative societies for the manufacture of cocoanut jaggery in select areas in Malabar and South Kanara distticts. Permission has been granted for the formation of similar societies., viz., cocoanut jaggery manufacturing societies in Kunnathur area inCoimbatore district also. In the districts of Salem, Coimbatore, North Arcot, and Chittoor alone, 212 palmyrah jaggery societies have been formed and 15,780 ex-tappers have been enrolled as members of these societies and provided with work in the manufacture of jaggery. In the districts of Malabar, South Kanara and Trichy among the new prohibition districts, 105 societies (palmyrah jaggery societies as well as cocoanut jaggery manufacturing societies) have been formed and 12,932 tappers have been enrolled as members.

Apart from the formation of jaggery manufacturing societies, efforts have been made for the formation of the various other types of societies, mainly to provide work to the ex-tappers - viz., milk supply societies, coir industries societies, land colonisation societies, mat weaving societies, wool carpet manufacturing societies, cattle breeding societies, etc. A brief note on the progress so far made in this direction is enclosed for the information of Government. It may thus be seen that every possible made of avocation which may goto provide suitable alternative employment to the ex-tappers is being exploured and appropriate action taken. This question viz. provision of alternative employment to the ex-tappers was also considered at the recent conference of the Special Development Officers and a plan of work for the formation of the various types of societipes has been drawn up. The Board will closely watch the progress made by the Collectors in this direction and see that the plan of work, drawn up at the conference is implemented as early as possible. Concrete proposals for Government assistance, wherever absolutely necessary, will be submitted to Government as and when they are received from the Collectors. In this connection, the Board desires to state that Mr. Nachiappa Gownder was present at the conference of the Special Development Officers throughtout by special request of the Board and that all his suggestions have been carefully considered and discussed.

The Board further wishes to add that the problem of unemployment did not present itself in a serious form except in Coimbatore among the old prohibition districts and in South Kanara and Malabar among the new prohibition districts. With the permission for the tapping of cocoanut trees the problem has been eased considerably in these districts. Formation of coir industries societies in Malabar will further improve the situation to some extent. It is oepn tothem to join co-operative societies for manufacture of jaggery, dairying and cottage industires and a few manufacture land colonisation schemes. These measures are for the purpose of providing congenical occupation to those of the tappers who cannot easily re-adjust themselves to the conditions which have arisen on the introduction of prohibition. In course of time the bulk of them must find alternative employment and must be absorbed in agricultural or industrial occupations. The question of unemployment has almost ceased to be a major issue in almost all the district.

As regards No.(ii) the Board submits that the renters are fairly a well-to-do class of people and special efforts were not called for to give them relief. The Board however examined this question also of the extent to which unemployment would be caused to the renters and their dependents. The Collectors of the districts generally reported that they would engage themselves in other trades and their employees would be absorbed in those avocations. The question of unemployment among the renters and others was not a serious problem. In this connection Mr. Nachiappa Gownder has suggested large scale industires for their employment. Regarding this [redacted] the Board submits that the establishment of large scale industires is a matter for the private capitalists to undertake and Government can only render such assistance as may be necessary on the merits of each case. Applications for such help when received can be taken up for consideration.

As regards No.(iii) as it is likely that prohibition will be introduced in the remaining districts, necessary steps will be taken by the Board on the lines similar to those taken in respect of the new prohibition districts. Necessary instructions will be issued to the Collectors of the districts concerned to see that suitable schemes for providing alternative employment to the tappers are drawn up well in advance, to meet the situation that may arise when prohibition is actually introduced in these districts. Special staff for each district and at Head-quarters will be necessary to do the preliminary work in this connection and the Board will submit separate proposals in this regard after receipt of particulars from the Collectors regarding the number of tappers likely to be affected if prohibition is introduced in these districts.

Sd. Munzoor Hussain,
Assistant Secretary

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, MADRAS.

Copy to Sri K.A. Nachiappa Gownder, M.L.A., Chairman, Prohibition Enquiry Committee, Madras.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Abstract

PROHIBITION - Amelioration - Tappers and others in abkari trade - Alternative employment - Papers recorded.

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